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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/737,765 | 12/18/2000 | Martti Talja | 2880/323 | 1794 |

26646 7590 04/02/2003

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| EXAMINER |
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ISABELLA, DAVID J

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3738

DATE MAILED: 04/02/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/737,765 | TALJA ET AL. |
| Period for Reply | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | DAVID J ISABELLA | 3738 |
| <i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i> | | |
| A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). | | |
| Status | | |
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>25 March 2003</u> . | | |
| 2a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final. | | |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. | | |
| Disposition of Claims | | |
| 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-5</u> is/are pending in the application. | | |
| 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration. | | |
| 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed. | | |
| 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-5</u> is/are rejected. | | |
| 7) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to. | | |
| 8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. | | |
| Application Papers | | |
| 9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner. | | |
| 10) <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) <input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b) <input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner. | | |
| Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). | | |
| 11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner. | | |
| If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action. | | |
| 12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. | | |
| Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120 | | |
| 13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). | | |
| a) <input type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some * c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of: | | |
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. | | |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____. | | |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). | | |
| * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. | | |
| 14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application). | | |
| a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received. | | |
| 15) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121. | | |
| Attachment(s) | | |
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | | |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | | |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. | | |
| 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____. | | |
| 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) | | |
| 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. | | |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2,3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

There is no support for "elements" in each of claims 2 and 3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1,3,4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pinchuk.

Pinchuk discloses a surgical implant comprising a biodegradable material wherein the material is reinforced in a longitudinal direction and the implant has a helical configuration.

Column 7, lines 5+, provide for a stent that may be biodegradable and coated. Examiner is interpreting the disclosure as an outer coating reinforced with a core of material. This combination provides for a biodegradable stent that is internally reinforced in a longitudinal direction and the implant has a helical configuration. Contrary to applicant's arguments, the implant as broadly claimed is met by the disclosure of Pinchuk.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pinchuk et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Silver et al.

In column 7, lines 15+, Pinchuk, et al discloses that the stent may be made of biodegradable materials. Silver, et al teaches fibers made from biodegradable fibrils used for the manufacture of prosthetic devices. To use the degradable material of Silver, et al to make the stent of Pinchuk, et al would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art based on engineering considerations.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered. The body of the rejection contains Examiner's response to applicant's arguments.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID J ISABELLA whose telephone number is 703-308-3060. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-FRIDAY.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, CORRINE MCDERMOTT can be reached on 703-308-2111. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned

are 703-305-3579 for regular communications and 703-305-3580 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.



DAVID J. ISABELLA
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3738

DJI

April 2, 2003